

# CHEMBUR-GHATKOPAR PLUS

## Campus Watch



### Children have fun with science and maths!

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Hundreds of school children who poured in from the metro and its suburbs, were thrilled to experience puzzles, games, creative projects, movies, performances and interesting hands-on activities at the recently concluded



Vigyan Vividha 2009, a Festival of Science, Mathematics and Technology, held at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science and education (HBCSE) campus, Mankhurd from November 12 to 14, to celebrate Children's Day. The festival was organized by HBCSE. It was initiated as well, as a part of the birth centenary of Dr Homi J Bhabha, a great visionary and the architect of India's atomic energy programme and a connoisseur of art.

Various types of interesting workshops like hands-on - math, math thru origami, design workshop, science in toy making, astron, Robotics and Sci-Fi, animation, eco-friendly activities etc had been conducted during the three days. Pavilions and stalls on health, climate and weather, atomic energy, astronomy were on display. Lectures and demonstrations on science were held at the auditorium of the main building.



A group of scientists from IUCCA (Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics), Pune demonstrated simple scientific toys made with waste lying at home. Some of them were quite interesting like water sprinklers showing centrifugal force, spectrum of light, sound produced by vibration with the help of a straws, food chain through a flexigon made by origami, lung power capacity with the help of 'Bernoulli bag' and many more.

Atharva Kalyankar, a student of Children's Academy, Malad said, "We have our own science club at school where we have to make various projects and scientific toys throughout the whole year. We have gathered fantastic experience from this show and we would like to implement it at the time of our presentation.



" A group of Montessori training teachers came from IWSA, Vashi. Monika Arora, one of the teachers asserted, "We noted down every experiment shown to us and we hope to put it into work at the time of demo-classes." Children' Tech work shop, robotics and sci-fi organized by Asha Sundarajan from Juhu was the other pavilion where the children as well as adults, gush ed in large numbers.

At the front of it there were two huge domes, one 11feet and the second 12 ft high, which were made up of high strength fire-proof, bullet and sound-proof fibres. Inside, there was a Newtonian camera, projection and mirrors were put together to convert it into a planetarium.

Sujatha Pachekar( 10th std) from Nutan Vidyamandir Mankhurd, was overwhelmed and shared , "With the help of projection , earth's wild ride starting from the era of dinosaurs , evolution of mankind , flora fauna , various ages were shown." The second portion was robotics where various types of robots like rattle snake for the use of sensing of sound obstacles, sound navigation, scorpion -robot, a walking robot useful on planets and many more were put on display.

At the integrated Lab, on the second level at the main building, the scientific - assistances of the Homi Bhabha Centre, organized puppet shows, with the help of which they spread awareness on environment and its conservation to the children. They also demonstrated interesting hands on experiments on air-pressure, friction, neutralization, water, heat -energy, sound wave etc.

Another striking pavilion was by Concept NGO and Navi Mumbai Science Foundation (NMSF) which came up with an idea to develop a network of proactive research professionals and personalities who would share their insights with students.

Dr A M Bhagwat, an earlier scientist of BARC, the spokesperson from the group said "Our aim is to expose students to a rich variety of subjects, highlight the linkages in various disciplines and emphasize their relevance to real life, as well as mediate periodic interactions between leading educationists and teachers."

Maths –thru-origami was one of the teaching activity aids on mathematics which had been organized by the host centre to help the students of primary section through 'additional method' and secondary section through 'Binary method'.

Dipti Mane a third standard student from Avinav Gyan Mandir, on Sion - Trombay road used five sets of squares to make different shapes, she stated, "This was something different which has not been taught in our school curriculum. So, I would like to add it in our project book"

"Our main motive is to offer opportunities for students and teachers as well as parents to know about developments in these areas through a variety of interaction formats, lectures, demonstrations, competitions, and hands-on activities," said administrative officer, M D Mastakar.

The Exhibition on Gender Science , History of Science starting from the evolution of the earth, Astronomy, Life in Biology, Computer in Education were some of the highlights of the three-day science festival and it was a stupendous success under the supervision of professor Chitra Natarajan.

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